



N.M.R.A. NEWS

NEW MEXICO RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 1993

President's Message: On World Affairs & Racquetball--Part 2

In March of 1992, I traveled throughout Bolivia on a nine-day mission. I visited four cities, offering clinics to men and women of all ages. These instructional sessions consisted of strategies, rules, and exhibitions. My task was to promote the sport and spearhead more international development. With the large numbers of people I impacted and the enthusiasm for the sport across the country, I returned home with this basic premise--that racquetball can make a contribution to global goodwill and understanding. Part of my journey is recorded in an article in the March/April 1993 issue of *NMRA News*.

I embarked again to Bolivia in March of 1993, this time to train and coach a talented group of racquetball athletes. Febrora (Bolivian Racquetball Federation) had selected 16 men and women to compete in two international events in April, El Torneo de las Americas and Los Juegos Bolivarianos. I was asked to provide on- and off-court training, to make the final team selections, and to coach the team in the first competition. All of these tasks were to be performed within a two-week time frame. My ultimate goal was to raise the team standing in El Torneo from the seventh place standing they earned in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in 1992. I was also trying to secure the gold medal for Bolivia in Los Juegos, an Olympic Festival for six Latino nations.

...Racquetball can make a contribution to global goodwill and understanding.

For most New Mexicans and other Americans, the name **Leomir Sarmiento** does not ring a bell. Leo resides in La Paz, where almost a million inhabitants live high in the Andes Mountains at 12,000 feet. Racquetball in La Paz, as is true throughout Bolivia, is growing. There are many athletic clubs with court facilities, and there is a significant number of instructors, including Leo. Leo traveled to the host city of Cochabamba to train and hopefully be selected to a place on the National Racquetball Team.

My first day in Cochabamba was spent acclimating to the altitude (8500 feet), combating jet lag, and greeting my prospective team members. Many of the athletes and non-players I knew from previous international competitions and clinics I had held in Bolivia. Also, some of the players participated in the 1992 World Championships in Montreal. Leo was one person whom I had not met. When it was time to introduce myself, a comrade interrupted us by saying, "Gary, look at Leo's leg." I stopped suddenly and looked as Leo pulled up his right sweat pant leg. He said "Hola" simultaneously. I saw a pros-

thetic device below his right knee. Many in the crowd began to laugh, so I joined in as if it were part of a script. This strange introduction served to break the ice and helped establish a quick rapport between us.

After my first day, I was more comfortable with the surroundings and with my role--to select the best men's and women's singles and doubles players/teams, and to prepare them for El Torneo pronto. Within two days, I had a good impression of the strengths of each player, and I began to formulate positions and teams in my mind.

There was little doubt that Leo would be part of the men's doubles tandem. As a surdo (left hander), he has developed both backhand and forehand strokes equal to many top level able-bodied players. He also has the instinct to retrieve balls that are seemingly down. He incredibly suspends his body airborne and returns to a recovery position, sometimes recklessly, while at other times without a flinch. He does this without the normal weight-bearing requirements for running and changing direction.

I started to open my eyes wide to the strategic possibilities for doubles as Leo and his partner, **Juan Carlos Tapia** continued to practice together. My hunch paid off when they beat the strong Mexican doubles team in the semifinals, before losing to the U.S. team of **Bill Sell** and **Joel Bonnett**, 15-6, 15-14 in the finals.

Leo Sarmiento is an inspiration to all athletes, able-bodied and handicapped. He exemplifies what racquetball is to over ten million players around the world, a game of skills, enjoyment, and positive experiences. Beginners, juniors, and senior men and women all look up to players like Leo. They recognize that desire, hard work, and the development of skills are part of a process and a life style. They see that whether one lives high in the Andes near the equator or on another continent at sea level, we are all able to communicate not only through the spoken word, but also through the sharing of positive experiences. Racquetball is a positive experience which we can and should use for better goodwill and understanding.

---Gary Mazaroff



Leo Sarmiento and the Bolivian Delegation at El Torneo de las Americas. The Bolivian National Racquetball Team placed 3rd at El Torneo and won the Gold medal in Los Juegos Bolivarianos.

Juniors Update

GELLMAN TOURS EUROPE

Rachel Gellman, State Women's Open Champion, just completed her second year as a member of the U.S. National Junior Team. Rachel and a select group of players from across the country visited three European countries to help grass-roots development.

GARAGE SALE TO BENEFIT NM JUNIORS

On July 25th, at 109 Hermosa SE (near Central and Carlisle in the Nob Hill District), in Albuquerque, the NMRA will sponsor a garage sale. New and used equipment, including racquetballs and racquets, garments, tote bags, and more will be available. Come with open hands and plenty of cash, checks, and credit cards. The sale begins at 1:00 pm. For

more information, call Gary Mazaroff at 266-8960.

Proceeds of the garage sale go to the NMRA Junior Travel Fund to help sponsor worthy recipients at regional and national events.

JUNIORS QUALIFY FOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

Five New Mexico players qualified to play in the Junior Olympic Championships at the Athletic Express Racquet and Health Club outside Washington, DC, June 26-30. They are **Becky Dolloff-Hobbs**, **Chris Gose-Albuquerque**, **Gabe Gose-Albuquerque**, **James Mulcock-Albuquerque**, now at Stanford University), and **Craig Spencer-Roswell**. These top junior players will try to bring back a team championship for New Mexico.

National Singles Roundup

The 1993 Ektelon/AARA U.S. National Singles Championships were held at the Downtown YMCA in Houston for the 11th straight year. This was a record year for participation, with over 700 players and about 2000 scheduled matches in 6 days. New Mexico was well-represented with players and spectators. Congratulations to **Rachel Gellman**, who placed second in Women's 19+ division. **Tony Jelso**, now residing in Ventura, CA, qualified for the U.S. Olympic Festival by beating **Joe**

Paraiso from California in the round of 16. Tony then lost in a close two-game set to **John Ellis** in the quarter finals. New Mexicans in attendance included **Bobby Baca**, **Janice Breeze**, **Carol Gellman**, **Joe Gellman**, **Rachel Gellman**, **Damian Jelso**, **Tony Jelso**, **Ray Maestas**, **Bill Matotan**, **Gary Mazaroff**, **James Mulcock**, **Tom Neill**, **Nidea Puig**, **Lou Souther**, **Joddy Stahl**, **Deanna Williams**, and **Jeff Wilson**.

Pursuing the Olympic Dream

The International Racquetball Federation and the AARA have been actively pursuing the Olympic Dream since 1979. Below are some of the recent highlights of this effort.

- Racquetball is a recognized sport of the International Olympic Committee for inclusion in future Olympic Games. Eighteen sports are currently recognized.
- The IRF currently has an 83-member contingent.
- Racquetball is a full medal sport in the 1995 Pan Am Games in Argentina.
- Racquetball is a full medal sport in the Central American-Caribbean Games in 1993.
- Racquetball is a full medal sport in the Central American Games in 1994.
- Racquetball is a full medal sport in the South American Games and Bolivarianos Games.
- Racquetball has been a full medal sport for the World Games since 1981.
- Wheelchair Racquetball will be a demonstration sport in the 1996 Para Olympics to be held following the 1996 Atlanta Summer Games.
- The IRF has made a formal presentation to the International Olympic Committee's Program Commission which will decide the program for the Summer Games at the Olympics in the year 2000.

NEWS NOTES

GRAND REUNION IN SAN DIEGO NOT SO GRAND...The 25th Anniversary Party for the AARA, sponsored by the International Racquet Sports Association (IRSA), was held at the Mission Valley Health Club on March 23rd. A beautiful pool party was held at the former Atlas Health Club, site of the National Championships in the 1970s. A host of racquetball legends and celebrities were invited to share this wonderful occasion. Unfortunately, the likes of **Bud Muelheisen**, **Steve Serot**, **Shannon Wright**, **Charley Brumfield**, and many others did not show up. MAYBE THE 50TH REUNION WILL BE DIFFERENT?

CHERRY-SILVER BENEFIT A GREAT SUCCESS...The **Manny Smith Cherry and Silver Handball and Racquetball Benefit Tourney** was held at Tom Young's Athletic Club in Albuquerque, June 5th. This annual event targets a worthy cause. This year proceeds were used to procure special equipment for **Amanda Higgins**, daughter of **Marla Higgins**, a one-time top racquetball player and now women's state handball champion. The 1993 event raised over \$1500. Thanks to the New Mexico Court Association, the Roadrunner Handball Club, players, sponsors, and all interested parties.

DESERT HIGH INCLUDES RACQUETBALL...The Annual Desert High Conference on Wellness, sponsored by the New Mexico State Department of Education, was held June 6-11 at New Mexico Tech in Socorro. Racquetball was introduced to educators at the event as a "Lifetime Activity." **Gary Mazaroff** was the presenter.

DAC OPENS IN ALBUQUERQUE...The **Garrett Family**, owners of the Midtown and Highpoint Clubs in Albuquerque and the Pierpont Facility in Ventura, CA, has opened another club in Albuquerque. The Executive Sports Club, known to many for the past 10 years, has reopened as the Downtown Athletic Club. They will continue to promote court sports and fitness for the downtown community. The DAC will offer an array of fitness opportunities including racquetball, squash, and handball.

PAGOSA SPRINGS JUMPS ONTO NMRA BANDWAGON...The Pagosa Lakes Recreation Center in Pagosa Springs, CO, will host part of the NMRA series of events for 1993-94. Many of their racquetball enthusiasts have supported the NMRA over the past five years. We are excited about their entry into the NMRA series. Stay tuned for their first sanctioned event in October.

ESPN TO OFFER PRO RACQUETBALL...Jones Intercable of Albuquerque has informed us that the Men's Professional Racquetball Tour stops will be televised in the near future on ESPN. Check your local cable company for dates and times.

LAURITSEN SHINES IN LOUISIANA...**Terry Lauritsen**, an NMRA Board member and many times NM state champion, participated in the U.S. Senior Olympic Festival in Baton Rouge, LA, in late June. Congratulations to Terry for his prowess in racquetball and badminton. Terry was a finalist in racquetball and the gold medalist in badminton in the men's 55 age category.

THANKS TO JOHN WESTERHAUS & SUBWAY FOR SUPPORTING THE NMRA IN 1993

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Annual Presidents' Meeting Highlights from Houston

.....The Downtown YMCA in Houston will host the 1994 National Singles, instead of the Lakewood Athletic Club in Colorado Springs.

.....Metro Regional sites are to be announced for 1994, with host sites for 1993 being on a priority list.

.....Pro Kennex will continue to provide in-kind support for grassroots development programs, including juniors for states that qualify.

.....The AARA will continue to promote the Club Recreational Memberships in conjunction with IRSA (International Racquet Sports Association) and NIRSA (National Intramural Recreational Sports Association).

.....The AARA is aligned with the American Chiropractic Association, and it will have physicians available at selected sites during the 1993-94 season.

You Make The Call

During a tiebreaker, a player calls a third timeout. What should the referee do? Answer in the next issue of *NMRA News*.

From Last Issue...

If a pair of eyeguards, or any other piece of equipment, whether required or not, falls off during a rally, the offending player loses the rally (side out or point awarded).

New AARA Rules for 93-94

(Effective September 1, 1993)

1. If a player uses a non-legal sized racquet (over 21 inches long), once it is recognized by the official, the result will be the loss of the current game, or if recognized between games, the loss of the previous game.
2. If a receiver indicates "non-readiness" to receive a serve, and the server serves the ball, the call is a FAULT SERVE.

PARI Update

A level one and two clinic was offered at Tom Young's Athletic Club in Albuquerque on June 12-13. **Gary Mazaroff** was the clinician with the expert help of **Joe Wittenbrink**. The following individuals attended the two-day workshop: **Cord Everetts**, **Robert Lee**, **Kenny Lukanik**, **Raymond Maestas**, **Jerry Spangler**, **Joddy Stahl**, **Paul Sullivan**, and **Jeff Wilson**.



**"LOOK FOR THE ARROW"
AIRPORT PARKING**

Tournament Results

NM INVITATIONAL

January 14-17, 1993
Tom Young's Athletic Club
Albuquerque, NM

MEN'S OPEN

1ST Louis Vogel
2ND Tom Neill
3RD Mario Lozoya

MEN'S AA

1ST Eduardo Avila
2ND Phil Cohen
3RD Javier Moreno Jr.

MEN'S A

1ST Mark Branson
2ND Willie Tilton
3RD Sergio Martinez

MEN'S B

1ST Eric Fought
2ND Bill Becker
3RD Toby Salais

MEN'S C

1ST Steve Barnhouse
2ND Dannie Tokunaga
3RD Tony Ussery

MEN'S D

1ST Mike Fernandez
2ND Neil Jensen
3RD Steve Holiday

MEN'S NOVICE

1ST Tony Thompson
2ND Steve Glass
3RD Mike Aringer

MEN'S 35+

1ST Gary Mazaroff
2ND Lou Souther
3RD Joe Wittenbrink

MEN'S 45+

1ST Joe Gellman
2ND Willie Minor
3RD Ron Loehman

MEN'S 55+

1ST Terry Lauritsen
2ND Jim Twohig
3RD Damian Jelso

MEN'S 65+

1ST George Patterson
2ND Bill Matotan
3RD Bob Schoenfeld

WOMEN'S OPEN

1ST Holly Gray
2ND Diana Almeida
3RD Rachel Gellman

WOMEN'S AA

1ST Teresa Blythe
2ND Carla Steen
3RD Nancy Kane

WOMEN'S A

1ST Cathy Teller
2ND Linda Johns
3RD Suzanne Williams

WOMEN'S B

1ST Anita Hammond
2ND Theresa Minser
3RD Cecille Bodman

WOMEN'S C

1ST Theresa Minser
2ND Melody Gavlik
3RD Nancy Nelson

WOMEN'S D

1ST Erin Burns
2ND Kelly Craig
3RD Donna Martinez

WOMEN'S NOVICE

1ST Sabrina Pasos
2ND Lydia Medina
3RD Kelly Craig

GIRLS' 14-16

1ST Erin Burns
2ND Sabrina Pasos
3RD Amber Hamilton

BOYS' 14

1ST Charley Mollo
2ND Jordan Fought
3RD Evan Ashworth

JUNIORS' 12

1ST Jorge Pasos
2ND Alex Robles
3RD Drex Fitzwater

JUNIORS' 8-10

1ST Diego Robles
2ND Chet Roach
3RD Jeni Fuller

BOYS' 8 & UNDER

1ST Chet Roach
2ND Roy Lee Luna
3RD Diego Robles

GIRLS' 8 & UNDER

1ST Jesi Fuller
2ND Khara Williams
3RD Leslie Luna

MEN'S OPEN DOUBLES

1ST Mario Lozoya
Luis Maya
2ND Tony Boscia
Mike Eitzel
3RD Phil Cohen
Tom Neill

MEN'S AA DOUBLES

1ST Augustin Diaz
Oscar Gutierrez
2ND Joe Gellman
Willie Minor
3RD Gary Rasmussen
Jorge Vite

MEN'S B DOUBLES

1ST Eric Fought
Chris Gose
2ND Steve Barnhouse
Lemonte Fuqua
3RD Gil Fernandez
Mike Fernandez

MEN'S C DOUBLES

1ST John Cotoia
John O'Dell
2ND Jordan Fought
Charley Mollo
3RD Darrell Dennis
Dominic Dennis

MEN'S D DOUBLES

1ST Steve Holiday
Steve Strong
2ND Mike Aringer
Alan Sheby
3RD Ray Luke
Anthony Torrez

WOMEN'S OPEN DOUBLES

1ST Rachel Gellman
Cathy Teller
2ND Diana Almeida
Judi Mori
3RD Patti Driver
Nidea Puig

WOMEN'S A DOUBLES

1ST Jayme Bundrant
Martha Gonzales
2ND Cecille Bodman
Jean Fought
3RD Debbie Alsop
Linda Johns

MIXED OPEN DOUBLES

1ST Karla Steen
Mario Lozoya
2ND Nidea Puig
Willie Minor
3RD Patti Driver
Lou Souther

MIXED AA DOUBLES

1ST Cathy Teller
Luis Maya
2ND Diana Almeida
Jorge Pasos
3RD Cindy Wittenbrink
Jorge Maya

MIXED B DOUBLES

1ST Anita Hammond
Ron Loehman
2ND Debbie Alsop
Roberto Piedra
3RD Becky Brannon
Cord Everett

MIXED D DOUBLES

1ST Jane Bentley
Jerry Bentley
2ND Mario Arellano
Bob Baines
3RD Anna Hepner
Paul Hepner

MORE RESULTS ON PAGE 4...

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More Results

NM STATE SINGLES

March 17-21, 1993
Tom Young's Athletic Club
Albuquerque, NM

MEN'S OPEN

1ST Tom Neill
2ND Jeff Wilson
3RD Phil Cohen

MEN'S AA

1ST Chris Evans
2ND Ray Maestas
3RD Willie Minor

MEN'S A

1ST Len Aragon
2ND Dennis Haggerty
3RD Kent Younklin

MEN'S B

1ST Gabe Gose
2ND Ben Bowles
3RD Eric Fought

MEN'S C

1ST Michael Brusuelas
2ND Steve Barnhouse
3RD Ricardo Gonzales

MEN'S D

1ST Ricardo Gonzales

2ND
3RD

Greg Fowler
Josef Dolejs

MEN'S NOVICE

1ST Jack Long
2ND Steve Glass
3RD Norm Alires

MEN'S 19+

1ST Roland Lucero
2ND Jeff Wilson
3RD Julian Duran

MEN'S 25+

1ST Roland Lucero
2ND Kenny Lukanik
3RD Duayne Roberts

MEN'S 30+

1ST Tom Neill
2ND Phil Cohen
3RD Charles Haywood

MEN'S 35+

1ST John Bulinski
2ND Steve Matotan
3RD Joe Wittenbrink

MEN'S 40+

1ST Gary Mazaroff

2ND
3RD

Bob Clark
Charles Haywood

MEN'S 45+

1ST Joe Gellman
2ND Willie Minor
3RD Ron Loehman

MEN'S 50+

1ST Ron Loehman
2ND Emie Nellos
3RD Larry Kingsley

MEN'S 55+

1ST Harvey Jacobs
2ND Terry Lauritsen
3RD Art Hurley

MEN'S 60+

1ST Harvey Jacobs
2ND Ralph Waddington
3RD Bob King

MEN'S 65+

1ST Dean Harvel

MEN'S 70+

1ST Bill Matotan

WOMEN'S OPEN

1ST Rachel Gellman

2ND
3RD

Donna Beldring
Nidea Puig

WOMEN'S AA

1ST Patti Driver
2ND Karen Fuller
3RD Cathy Teller

WOMEN'S A

1ST Cathy Teller
2ND Deanna Williams
3RD Karen Fuller

WOMEN'S B

1ST Janet Rivera
2ND Pat Thiemann
3RD Debbie Aisup

WOMEN'S C

1ST Martha Allen
2ND Maria Shelby
3RD Debra Thomas

WOMEN'S D

1ST Erin Burns
2ND Joyce Burns
3RD Mary Olson

WOMEN'S NOVICE

1ST Ana Barraza

2ND
3RD

Debbie Gwilt
Starr Welty

WOMEN'S 19+

1ST Rachel Gellman

WOMEN'S 25+

1ST Donna Beldring
2ND Nidea Puig
3RD Debbie Beldring

WOMEN'S 30+

1ST Nidea Puig

WOMEN'S 35+

1ST Debra Thomas

WOMEN'S 40+

1ST Carol Gellman
2ND Virginia Welty
3RD Pat Thiemann

WOMEN'S 45+

1ST Paula Sperling
2ND Judi Mori
3RD Carol Gellman

WOMEN'S 50+

1ST Judy Fetherston
2ND Sally Polk
3RD Ann Toya

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